

A NOTE FROM *Johnstone-Music*

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## **SPECIAL FEATURE on the Andrew Lloyd Webber “VARIATIONS”**

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Variations is a classical and rock fusion album - perhaps the summit of the “Classical crossover”. The music was composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber and performed by his younger brother, the cellist Julian Lloyd Webber. The Lloyd Webber brothers were always very close but their two different careers (a rock musical composer and a classical cellist) meant that a collaboration seemed unlikely. However, it was not until Julian beat his brother in a bet on a Leyton Orient football match that Andrew was forced to write his cello work a great publicity stunt!

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As his subject, Andrew chose the theme of Paganini's 24th caprice and added 23 variations for cello and rock band. The work was premiered at the 1977 Sydmonton Festival with rock band Colosseum II, but it was subsequently rearranged and recorded in 1978. It reached Number 2 on the UK album charts. The cover is based on the painting Frederick, Prince of Wales, and his sisters by Philip Mercier, which we have seen this summer in the “On this Cello Day” series!

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The work was used in musical Song and Dance (1982) and David Cullen made an arrangement of the work for cello and orchestra. The opening and closing variations have been rewritten for cello and piano, the latter of which Julian often uses as an encore, due to its amusing glissando down to Bottom A (forcing a mid piece retune) to conclude.

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Original rock version

Written for Solo cello and: electric 12 string & electric guitars, acoustic guitar, grand piano, synthesizers, electric piano, flute, alto flute, alto & tenor saxophone, bass guitar, drums, cymbals & gongs, percussion, and vibraphone.

The work was premiered at the 1977 Sydmonton Festival with Julian Lloyd Webber – solo cello and rock band Colosseum II

Recording Release date: 22nd January, 1978

HEAR IT HERE:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YxxfaGmyJ5g>

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Premiere Orchestral version

Julian Lloyd Webber – solo cello, first performed with the London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Lorin Maazel

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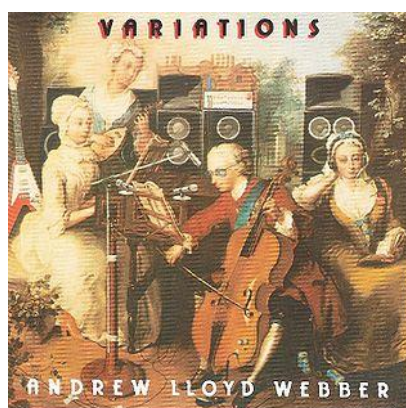
Irish Premiere Performance

Friday 11th July 1986 - David Johnstone - invited solo cello with a group of talented young Irish musicians.

Edmund Burke Hall, Dublin

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‘documenting the cello’

Please do see other original works for many different instruments and groupings, and also special transcriptions for cellists, and cellists with other instruments on the *Johnstone-Music* web page

Also both general musical and cello based articles, directories of famous historical cellists, and many other items of interest

**DOWNLOADS** - Many downloads on *Johnstone-Music* are now available, for those that are interested, at a *symbolic* payment, which is to help cover the costs of this web site. Some scores/parts are presented in musical edition programmes but generally they are found here in a most “clear” hand-written manuscript copy (the majority to almost a professional copyist standard) and transferred to a PDF file.

As far as *Johnstone-Music* is concerned you are welcome to publicly perform or record any work or piece found in the web; however you DO need to make mention of the name of the composer and the arranger on any printed information (hand programmes, disc covers etc.).

**FREE PUBLICITY** - If you care to inform us of any public performance (no matter how formal or informal the event is), recording or other uses of the original music or arrangements of David Johnstone or of other musical colleagues included in this web, we are happy to give your event free publicity on the *Johnstone-Music* web.

To take advantage of this, try to write to us three weeks or more in advance with any information. Last-minute entries are certainly better than not writing at all - however, understandably, once we have past the calendar month of the event it is not usually possible to add old items to the calendar. It is very interesting for the promoters of *Johnstone-Music* to have knowledge of your activity - and so in return for your information you will be entitled to a free gift of a work/s for every diary addition you tell us about. To find out more about this, please visit the “*Cello Club*” section in the web!